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March 10, 1888

March 27th, 1914

Silas McBee, Fso.,  
200 Fifth Avenue,  
New York.

Dear Mr. McBee:

Many thanks for your letter and its kind references to my article in the Constructive Quarterly. Apart from the very flattering review by Professor Sandy in the last issue I had not had any word as to what impression it had made on your public, but I am glad to know from you that it has been a helpful review of the situation.

I am not quite sure as to the kind of articles that you wish to have for your September and December issues. Are they both to deal with the proposed union between the Presbyterian, Methodist and Congregational Churches, or is one of them to deal with that question, and the other with the larger question of general church union in the Dominion?

However, before you answer these questions, there is one name that I will confidently submit to you as that of a man if you can secure him, an article from him will give you what you require in any case. I refer to Dr. Walter C. Murray, <sup>President</sup> of the University of Saskatchewan. He is a layman, has been a member of the union committee of these Churches, is a highly educated gentleman, and is I believe the most outstanding education-  
alist in Western Canada. He is an old friend of mine, and if you approve of his name, I will be glad to write to him and ask him to do what you wish.

Before suggesting a second name I should like to know from

(Silas McBee, Esq.)

2

March 27th, 1914

you just what kind of an article you wish. In my own judgment it would be wise to have an article from an Anglican. Here I am at a loss just what name to suggest. Archdeacon Cody of Toronto is undoubtedly a very outstanding man, and takes a great interest in the union movement. Of course he represents a school, but it may be difficult to secure a man who has not certain affiliations. There is also Dr. Herbert Symonds of Montreal, who is a braver churchman than Dr. Cody, and who perhaps has raised some antagonism by the eagerness with which he has put forward his views on Church Union, but Dr. Symonds is an able man. Possibly the best man from whom to secure an article would be Archbishop Matheson of Winnipeg, who is the Primate of the Dominion.

President Tory of the University of Alberta, the State University of that Province, an outstanding man in that region, is a Methodist, and he knows the Western country very well. If many other names should occur to me I shall be glad to mention them to you, or I would be glad to know the names suggested to you and to give you my opinion of them, and they might start my thinking of others.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

294

# *The Constructive Quarterly*

Edited by Silas McBee

CABLE ADDRESS  
STRUCTIVE NEWYORK

200 Fifth Avenue New York

March 30, 1914.

President Robert A. Falconer,

Toronto University, Toronto, Canada.

Dear President Falconer:

Your letter of March 27 is very stimulating for you go to the very heart of the matter. I reply immediately to accept your statement of the treatment, namely, that one paper shall be on "The Proposed Union", that is, between the Presbyterian, Methodist and Congregationalist Churches; and another on the larger question of "General Union in the Dominion". I beg that you will write to, <sup>Dr.</sup> Walter C. Murray, President of the University of Saskatchewan, inviting him on behalf of The Constructive Quarterly to deal with the first of these, if I have rightly interpreted your allotment ~~to~~ <sup>of</sup> him ~~of~~ that part of the question. It is particularly satisfying to feel that you have such a layman and that you are in position because of your friendship to urge him to write. I shall follow your judgment in the matter and if you would prefer to have him write upon the larger question, you will not hesitate to act absolutely for me. His membership on the Union Committee of these Churches and the fact that he is a layman and really a statesman in educational matters would seem to set him apart for the work that these Committees have been doing in a peculiar way, and I hope you may hear from him, making a definite



p. 2.

promise for the article for one of the dates.

I should have suggested in the beginning that one Anglican should write but I preferred to leave the matter absolutely in your hands, and prefer still to do so. If you would write as representing The Constructive in Canada to the Primate, Archbishop Matheson, he will be especially honored, and if there is a possibility of drawing him out of his accustomed shell I think such an appeal from you to present the general situation in Canada to Christians throughout the world would do it. I know the Archbishop well and on more than one occasion he has treated me not only with loving kindness but with distinguished consideration. But I ~~was never~~ <sup>was not</sup> able in my experience as Editor of The Churchman to induce him to write. He has always felt a delicacy by reason of his position as Primate, and I think a great deal of it was due to the delicacy of the situation between a State Church and the semi-dependent position claimed by some for the Canadian Church in relation to England, and our own free and independent Church here. But if you will write to him for a dispassionate statement of the general situation in Canada for the benefit of Christians of every name in every clime, he might feel a call to respond, and it would be very valuable to have him do so, because deep down in his soul his sympathies extend far beyond what has been revealed in his official acts. I shall esteem it a tribute to a member of our ~~State~~ Church if you will do The Constructive the honor to invite Archbishop Matheson to write this article, and I know that he will value, and deeply value, your doing so.

If the Archbishop should write it would necessitate another article, because he would never write at length and his statement would be not only

p. 3.

brief but very simple, and it would not be bad at all to have in the same number with his paper the point of view of a Methodist of distinction, either President Tory, whom you mentioned, or possibly for geographical reasons someone from the East. But this I leave absolutely with you. If Archbishop Matheson fails entirely, Archdeacon Cody would undoubtedly represent a very large area of the Anglican attitude in Canada, and as you know even better than I do, he would write with the deepest sympathy and with great acceptability to people entirely beyond the borders of the English Church in Canada.

Dr. Symonds is not only what you describe him but he has many elements of scholarship as well as breadth of vision that would commend him, but, although he is my dear friend I have refrained from asking him to write, as he has done for me in the past, because of the antagonism to which you refer. Later in the history of The Constructive I have been planning ~~to~~ something from Dr. Symonds but not just now.

Of the younger bishops, the two men who have both in private and public shown the greatest enthusiasm for The Constructive are Dr. Farthing, the Bishop of Montreal, and Dr. Richardson, the Bishop of Fredericton. You would know better than I could to what extent they would be representative and how large their grasp of the situation would be.

My conclusion is that if you secure Dr. Murray for the article on the proposed union that is being worked out, and get some statement, however brief and simple, from Archbishop Matheson and to go with this a not too extended but very able paper from other than an Anglican, you will enable The Constructive to do something that would be very far-reaching.

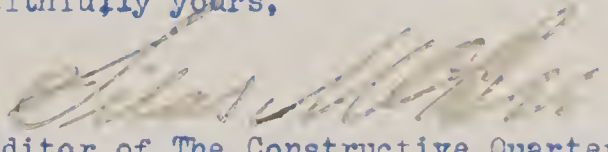
Please pardon so much writing and know that it is due to my desire to

p. 4.

carry out the very vigorous suggestions that you have made. The question of the dates for receiving the papers in this office, you will allow me to repeat is vital -- the first of June for the September article; and Aug. 15-- this is absolutely necessary -- for the December article.

Your suggestions and your plan are so much better than the scheme of names that President Brown and I had prepared that I think it better not to mention any of them but to follow your lead, and in this I know that Dr. Brown is at one with me.

Very faithfully yours,

  
Editor of The Constructive Quarterly.

*I hope you will invite two, or even  
three ministers acting without advice  
from me except as above, and  
that only by way of suggestion.*



April 1st, 1914

Silas McBee, Esq.,  
Editor, "Constructive Quarterly",  
200 Fifth Avenue,  
New York.

Dear Mr. McBee:

I have just written to President  
Murray and Archbishop Watneson asking them to write  
articles and I hope to hear favourably from them.  
After hearing from them I will know what further  
steps to take and whether or not to approach  
Archdeacon Cozy.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.



April 9th, 1914

Silas MacBee, Esq.,

New York.

Dear Mr. MacBee:

I have just heard from Archbishop Matheson and as you anticipated he is unwilling to write for the "Constructive Quarterly". He says that writing articles for the press has never been in his line and he is afraid it is now too late in life for him to begin.

Who do you think should be approached next ?

Yours sincerely,

President.

April 15th, 1914

Silas McPee, Esq.,

New York.

Dear Mr. McPee:

Many thanks for your letter. I am glad that you got such a favourable answer from Murray, and I am sure that he will do the thing well for you.

I will write to Archdeacon Cody to-morrow.

Yours sincerely,

President.

April 25th, 1914

Silas McFee, Esq.,  
New York.

Dear Mr. McFee:

I have seen Archbishop Cody but he is so overwhelmed with work that he is unable to promise any article for the "Constructive Quarterly". He recommends that you should ask Dr. H. Synnott of Montreal. What do you say of this?

Yours sincerely,

President.



May 7th, 1914

Silas McBee, Esq.,

Editor, "Constructive Quarterly", New York.

Dear Mr. McBee:

I have been thinking a good deal about some other possible man for the article that you desire with regard to the Churches of Canada. It is extremely difficult to think of any one who is really suitable and who would have the time to do it. If Professor W. S. Milner of University College, Toronto, could be induced to write he would perhaps give a discriminating article, and he is not an Anglican, he is a Methodist. Perhaps his name would not be known to a very wide public. I have not spoken to Professor Milner about it, and I would like your opinion on the matter.

Perhaps Professor Blans of Winnipeg, who is a Methodist, would be able to give you a good article. He is held in high esteem, and is quite a thinker. He is in the theological department of the college at Winnipeg. There is also President Tory of the University of Alberta, who is a Methodist. He is a very busy man, but has excellent judgment, and knows the field very well.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.